1 of 4

BATMAN®

YEAR 100

by PAUL POPE
with JOSE VILLARRUBIA

BATMAN: YEAR 100
1 of 4 by PAUL POPE

letters JARED K. FLETCHER + JOHN WORKMAN colorist JOSE VILLARRUBIA

BATMAN CREATED BY BOB KANE

"BATMAN" FEARS AFTER ALLEGED CREATURE SIGHTINGS

GOTHAM CITY: 11:29:39: FEAR GRIPS GOTHAM NEIGHBORHOOD AFTER DOZENS OF CITIZENS REPORT SEEING BAT-LIKE CREATURE LEAPING FROM ROOF TO ROOF. (SEE RELATED: MORE NEWS AT GCDAY.WEB)

GOTHAM METRO POLICE RECEIVED ABOUT 20 REPORTS OF A MYSTERIOUS CREATURE WITH A BAT-LIKE FACE, IN AND AROUND HUDSON AND KANE AVENUES, A SENIOR OFFICIAL WITH GCPD TOLD REUTERS EARLIER TONIGHT. GOTHAM POLICE LIEUTENANT CAPTAIN THOMAS HOUCK TOLD REPORTERS THEY HAD FOUND NO CLUES OR PHYSICAL EVIDENCE THAT WOULD EXPLAIN THE PHENOMENA. "TONIGHT WE RECEIVED ABOUT A DOZEN CALLS REPORTING CREATURE SIGHTINGS BY RESIDENTS OF APARTMENT BUILDINGS ON CYPRESS STREET," HOUCK SAID. "OF THESE, NINE HAVE BEEN SHOWN TO HAVE NO VERIFIABILITY. THE OTHER REPORTS INVOLVED SOME EVIDENCE OF MINOR WOUNDS AND WE ARE TRYING TO CONFIRM THE CAUSES OF THOSE INJURIES WITH BOTH GOTHAM MERCY AND GOTHAM CENTRAL HOSPITAL," HE SAID. HE HAD NO FURTHER COMMENTS AS OF THIS LATEST REPORT FILING.

NEWS ONE REPORTERS REVEALED THAT THEY MANAGED TO INTERVIEW A HANDFUL OF CYPRESS STREET RESIDENTS IN THE GOTHAM NEIGHBORHOOD OF EASTEND BEFORE FEDERAL POLICE CORPS AGENTS QUARANTINED THE AREA AS PART OF A SEPARATE, UNRELATED POLICE INVESTIGATION. ALLEGED EYEWITNESSES CLAIMED TO HAVE SEEN AN ANIMAL-LIKE CREATURE WITH A BAT'S FACE AND HUMAN BODY LEAPING BETWEEN BUILDING ROOFTOPS. ONE MAN REPORTED SPECIFICALLY SEEING "A LARGE MAN WITHOUT ARMS, RUNNING UNDER WHAT LOOKED LIKE A HEAVY, BLACK SHEET, LIKE A BLACK GHOST." FPC AGENTS QUELLED HYSTERIA BY POSTING STREET-TO-STREET ROADBLOCKS AND IMPOSING AN IMMEDIATE CURFEW ON THE EASTEND NEIGHBORHOOD SOUTH OF DELANY STREET AND EAST OF BROAD, STRETCHING ALL THE WAY TO THE RIVER. POLICE VEHICLES PATROLLED THE AREA OVERHEAD AS RESIDENTS SPENT THE REST OF THE NIGHT ON THEIR ROOFTOPS OR IN THEIR HOMES, ARMED WITH STICKS AND LEAD PIPES. NO FURTHER INJURIES OR SIGHTINGS WERE REPORTED.

FPC AGENT BARUCH MERCER ADMITTED DURING AN UNRELATED, OFFICIAL NEWS CONFERENCE LATE LAST NIGHT THAT WHILE THERE ARE ABOUT 1,000 FPC PERSONNEL CURRENTLY STATIONED IN AND AROUND GOTHAM, IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS EVENT. FURTHER, AGENT MERCER STRESSED THAT THE FPC POLICE ACTIVITY IN THE SAME EASTEND NEIGHBORHOOD IS RELATED TO A SEPARATE INVESTIGATION. HE WOULD NEITHER CONFIRM NOR DENY REPORTS OF THE SO-CALLED "BAT-MAN OF GOTHAM".**(REUTERS CONTRIBUTED TO THIS REPORT)**■

PANIC AS GOTHAM GCPD HUNT "BAT-LIKE" CREATURE

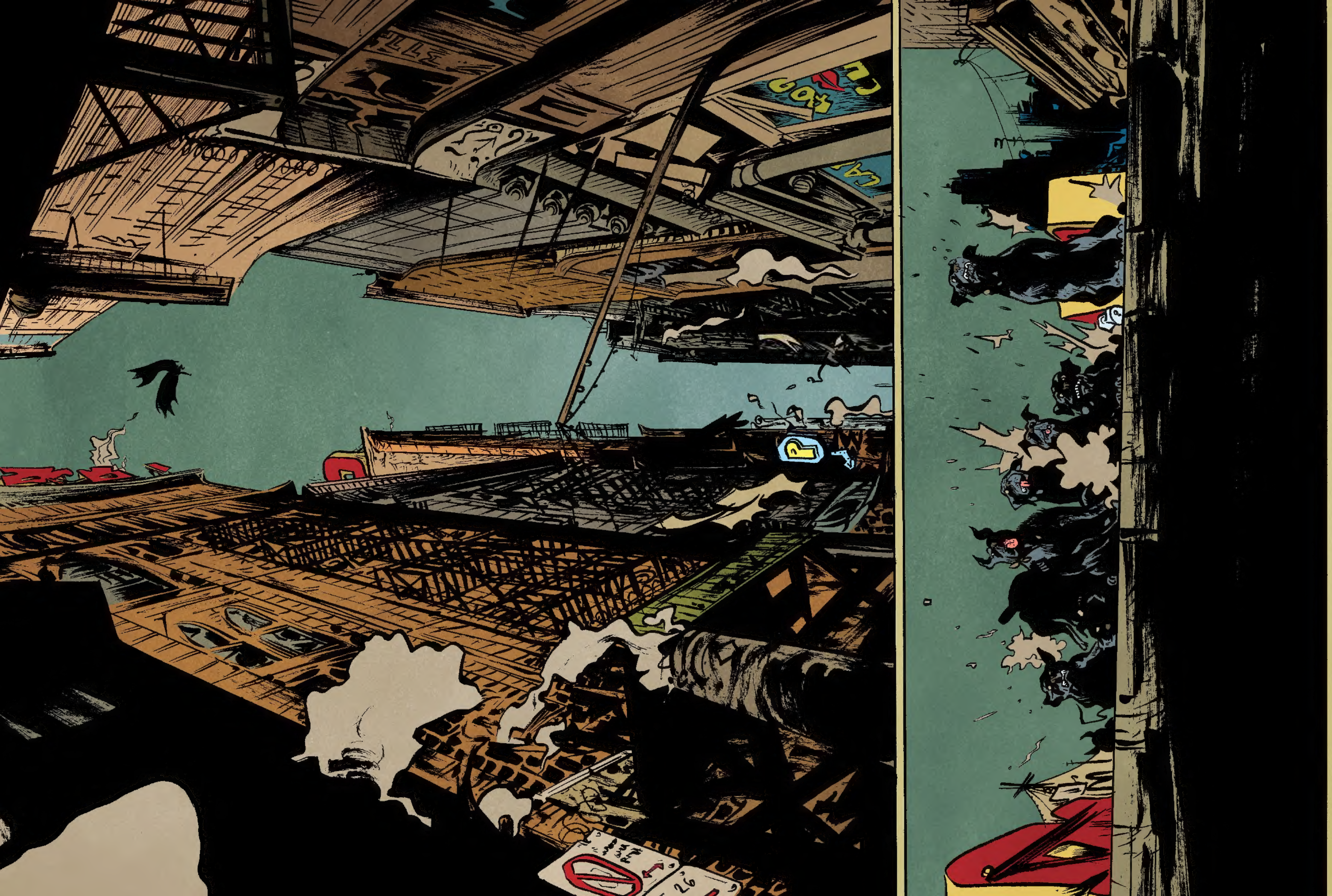
CMN.WEB/NEWS/N.29.39 PM

GOTHAM POLICE HAVE RECEIVED NUMEROUS REPORTS LATE THURSDAY NIGHT OF A MYSTERIOUS CREATURE WITH BAT-LIKE FEATURES AND A HUMAN BODY. THE SIGHTINGS OCCURRED IN THE CITY BLOCK OF 200-300 CYPRESS STREET, NOW UNDER FPC SURVEILLANCE DUE TO A SEPARATE, UNRELATED POLICE INVESTIGATION. GOTHAM ONE HAS REPORTED THAT A SMALL NUMBER OF RESIDENTS OF THE CYPRESS STREET MISSION BUILDING AND ADJOINING RESIDENCY HILL APARTMENT COMPLEX HAVE SUSTAINED INJURIES RELATED TO THE ALLEGED CREATURE SIGHTINGS. EYEWITNESS ACCOUNTS VARY AS TO THE APPEARANCE AND NATURE OF THE ALLEGED CREATURE SOME RESIDENTS ARE CALLING "THE BAT-MAN OF GOTHAM." ONE MAN SHOWED GOTHAM ONE REPORTERS WHAT APPEARED TO BE BITE WOUNDS, CLAIMING HE HAD BEEN ATTACKED BY THIS CREATURE. DOCTORS AT GOTHAM MERCY HAVE VERIFIED THAT THE MAN HAD BEEN ATTACKED BY SOMETHING, ALTHOUGH THEY WOULD NOT AT THIS TIME SPECULATE AS TO WHAT MAY HAVE ATTACKED HIM. CONFIDENTIALLY, ONE ORDERLY AT THE HOSPITAL TOLD REPORTERS IT WAS LIKELY THE RESULT OF DOG BITES. THIS MAN IS NOW BEING HELD FOR FURTHER TESTING AND WAS NOT AVAILABLE FOR ADDITIONAL QUESTIONING BY THE MEDIA.

"THE BAT-MAN OF GOTHAM" WAS THE NAME GIVEN TO A MYTHICAL URBAN MONSTER OF POPULAR LEGEND IN THE LAST CENTURY.

GCPD OFFICIALS HAVE VERIFIED THE SIGHTING REPORTS AND SAY AN INVESTIGATION IS NOW UNDER WAY, ALTHOUGH THEY WOULD NOT SPECULATE AS TO THE NATURE OF THE MYSTERIOUS FIGURE RESIDENTS ALLEGEDLY SAW. ONE OFFICER HAS BLAMED THE PANIC ON UNEDUCATED POOR PEOPLE, MANY OF THEM SUPERSTITIOUS AND STRONG BELIEVERS IN THE SUPERNATURAL. "WE'VE SEEN THINGS LIKE THIS BEFORE. IT'S LIKELY A GANG OF TEENAGERS IN MASKS, OUT TO SCARE PEOPLE," SAID THE OFFICER. "THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS A BAT-MAN OF GOTHAM."

THE STATE POWER COMPANY HAS ASSURED RESIDENTS THERE WILL BE NO INTERRUPTION IN THE GOTHAM POWER SUPPLY TONIGHT, SO THAT WORRIED TENANTS COULD FEEL SAFER KNOWING MAGNETIC LOCKS AND HOME LIGHTS WILL FUNCTION PROPERLY. WITH THE HOLIDAY SEASON APPROACHING AND HOME HEATING DEMANDS ON THE RISE, GOTHAM'S STATE-OWNED POWER SUPPLIER HAS EXPERIENCED A NUMBER OF UNFORTUNATE ROLLING BROWNOUTS.■



FLUMP

APC

WHUFF

WHINE WHINE

HUFF

HUFF

PLPT.

BARK BARK BARK BARK

WUFF!

CLICK

SUSPECT JUST CLEARED A TWENTY-FIVE-FOOT JUMP BETWEEN TWO ROOFTOPS.

H-HUH? COORDINATES?

CHOOF CHOO-

DOWN THERE-- SOMEONE--!

LOOK, HE WENT INTO THAT BUILDING.

DROP THE AIRTEAM!

C'MON! C'MON!

LET'S GO!

PLACE IS A RATHOLE!

WHAT HE LOOK LIKE?

C'MON!

BANG!

POLICE! NOBODY MOVE!

JUST A KID.

KID, WHERE'S YOUR ADULT SUPERVISOR? YOU'RE ALONE?

UH-UH.

YOU *SEE* ANYBODY COME THIS WAY? GUY DRESSED LIKE DRACULA...?

HUH-UH.

PIZZA

SOME KINDA WANG-DANG ON THE SIXTH FLOOR, SARGE.

ON IT!

YOU HEARD 'EM, GIRLS! KRUPS, YOU STAY UP HERE!

SIR!

GO! GO!

=HUFF= =HUFF=

=HUFF=

=HUFF= I--

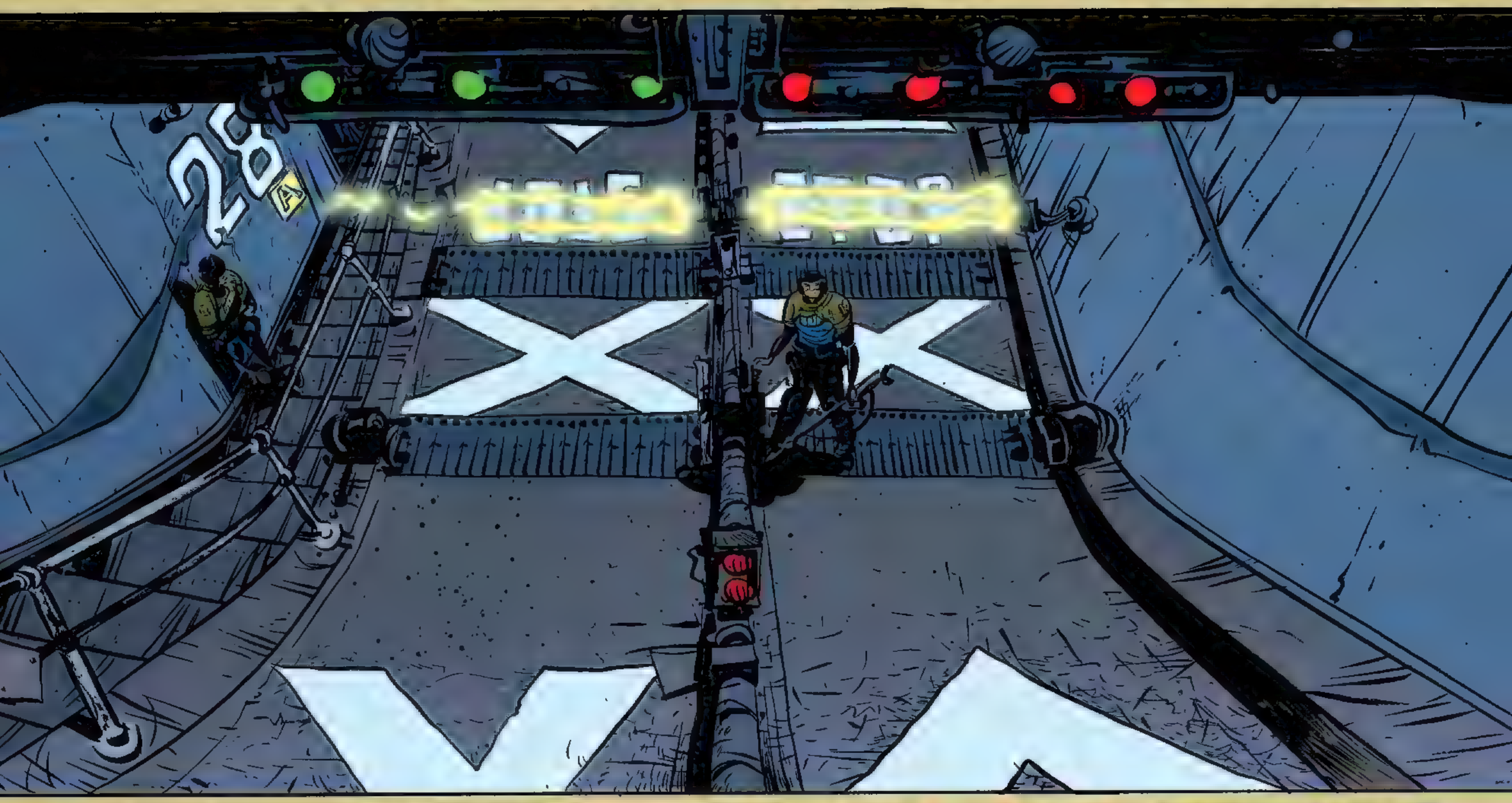
THOOF

SLAPP!

KOFF!

=KAFF=
=KAFF=

KLOP-KLAP-KLO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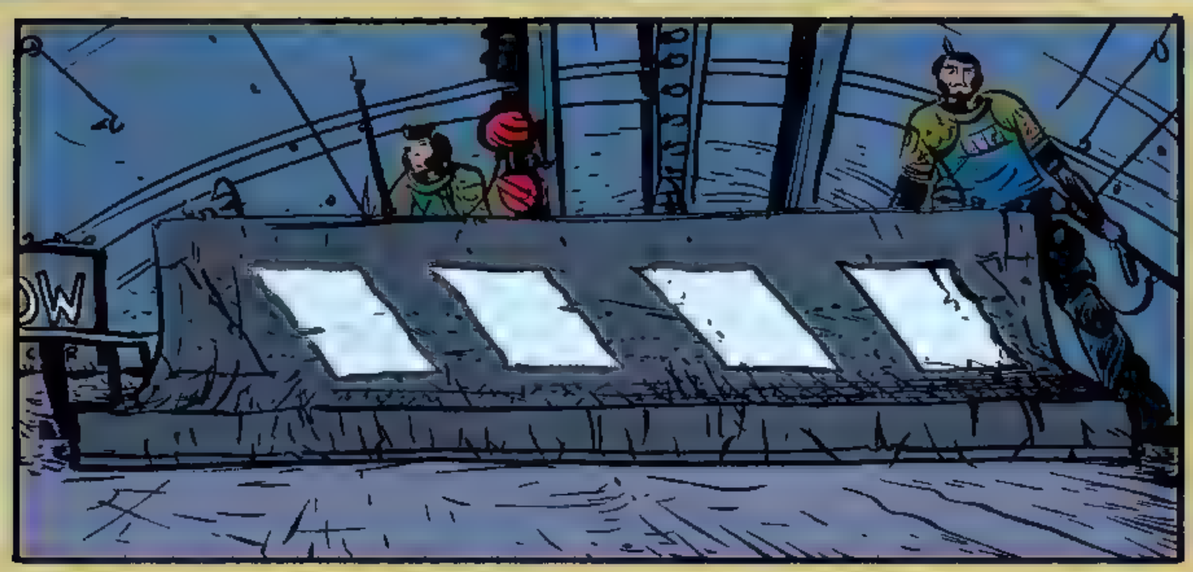
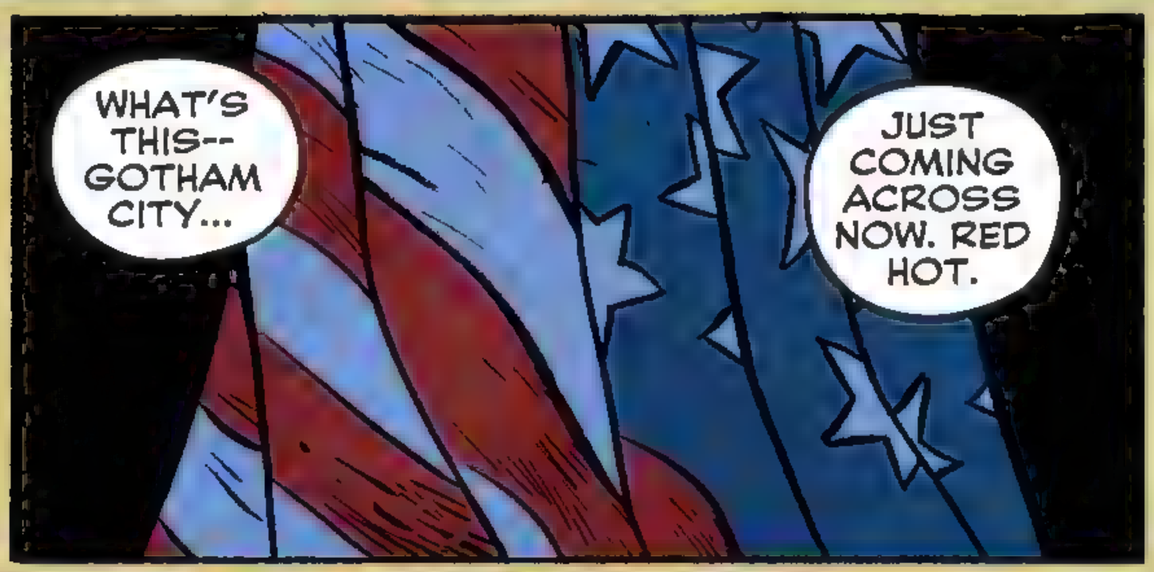
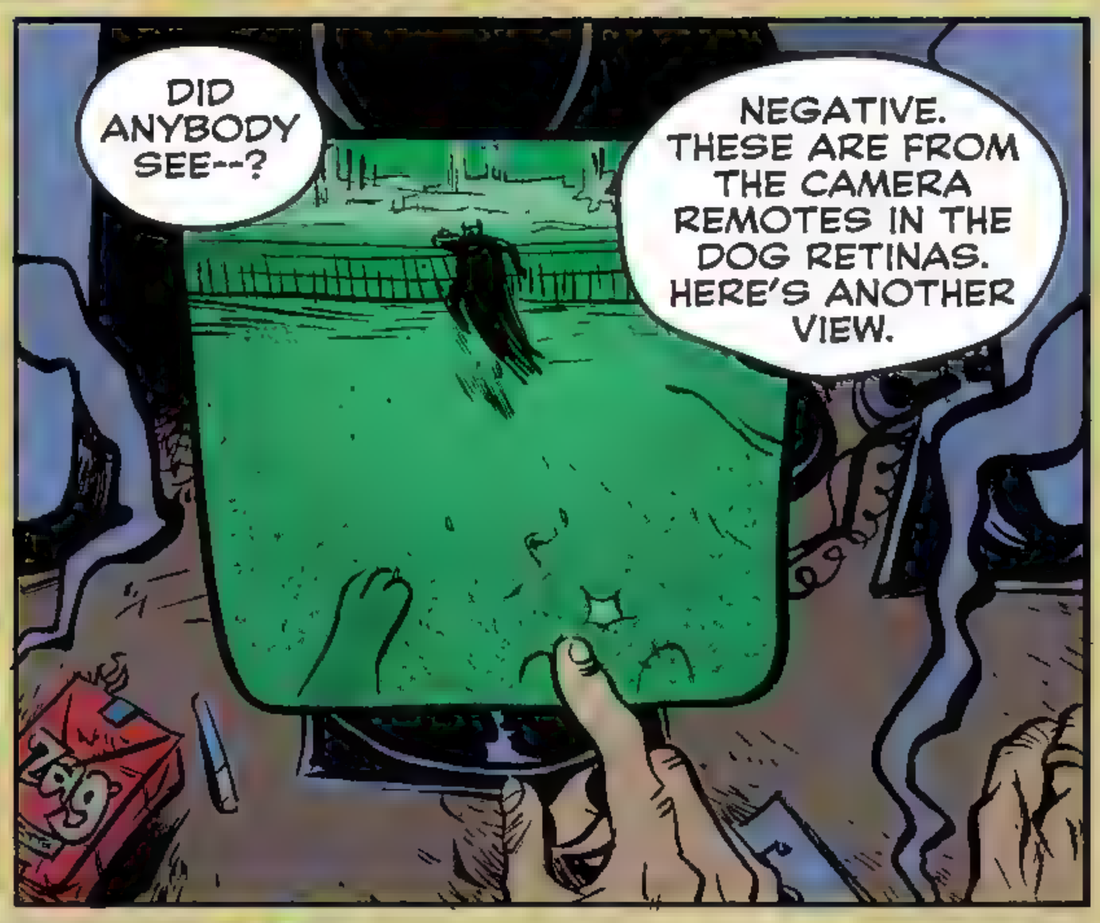



WHAT'S THIS-- GOTHAM CITY...
JUST COMING ACROSS NOW. RED HOT.

WE HAVE A DEAD MAN-- THREE, FOUR MINUTES AGO.
WE HAVE OUR LOCAL A.A.P.C. MEN THERE NOW-- GOTHAM PANTHERS.


DID ANYBODY SEE--?
NEGATIVE. THESE ARE FROM THE CAMERA REMOTES IN THE DOG RETINAS. HERE'S ANOTHER VIEW.

IMPOSSIBLE. THAT'S A TWENTY-FOOT JUMP. NOBODY CAN--
THIS PERSON'S A DOUBLE-U. UNCLASSIFIED, UNDOCUMENTED.

OBVIOUSLY SOME SORT OF EXO-SUIT. EVEN AN OLYMPIC--
I SEE NO EXO ON THIS DOUBLE-U. NO ENHANCEMENTS WHATSO--
BLACK COSTUME, MASK...
...TELLING ME WE CAN'T ESTABLISH HIS IDENTITY?

UNCLASSIFIED AND UNDOCUMENTED! THIS HASN'T HAPPENED FOR AT LEAST--

DRAW DOWN A CAPTURE OFF THE DOG LENSES, RUN IT THROUGH THE MAINFRAY-- LOOKS CAUCASIAN, SIX-TWO, OR THREE--

RUN IT BACK AT FOUR, FIVE, SIX YEARS. A MASK.

WE HAVE THE PANTHER SERGEANT UP ON! SAYS NO SIGN OF THE DOUBLE-U. ROOFTOP IS SECURE!

NO, NO. OF COURSE THERE ISN'T! IT'S BEEN FIVE MINUTES!

HAVE 'EM DOUBLE UP THE AIRTEAMS, PREPARE A NEW L-Z. THREE-BLOCK RADIUS, USE THAT ROOFTOP AS A CENTERPOINT. HURRY!

ROGER THAT. =SQUAK=

SWEEP THE STREETS-- SUPERSONICS, INFRARED, PHOSPHORS... LIGHT IT UP.

WE HAVE A DEAD MAN AND A DOUBLE-U HIGHTAILIN'... WE NEED TO FIND OUT WHO THIS IS!

SHIFF

WHAT'S ALL THE HUBBUB?

A DOUBLE-U, SIR. GOTHAM.

ONE F.P.C. AGENT DOWN, HOT PURSUIT.

RUNNING-RUNNING.

IT'S OUR PANTHER-MAN, AGAIN. SAYS THE BUILDING'S SECURE. DOGS BACK, AIRTEAM TWELVE IS IN SWEEP.

IS THE DOUBLE-U THE SPOT-ON?

DON'T KNOW YET, SIR. HE FLED THE--

HOLD IT, WAIT. WAIT, THIS IS INTERESTING.

DONUTS

WHAT IS INTERESTING?

HUH-HO! THIS ISN'T JUST ANY OLD DOUBLE-U, BOYS. THIS IS THE DOUBLE-U MOTHER LODE.

THE LONG, LOST ONE, THE ENIGMA, THE SHADOW...!

SHOO

WE JUST FOUND THE BATMAN! THE BATMAN OF GOTHAM!

THE BATMAN OF GOTHAM DOES NOT EXIST!

IT'S AN URBAN LEGEND COOKED UP BY DRUG DEALERS AND SLUMLORDS. SCARES OUT THE--

SORRY, SIR. IT'S OUR PANTHER-MAN. SAYS THEY'VE APPREHENDED THE--

WHAK!

STOP! STOP HIM!

STOP!

FREEZE, SUCKER!

GRAAH--

FLUMP

WHA- WHAA--

STOP YOU--!

SPARKATAK-SPARK

PING!

SPTAKT

PING-POP!

THE *HELL* WAS *THAT!?*

SHUT UP! TWELVE, YOU COPY?

COPY, SARGE.

HE SLIPPED DOWN BETWEEN THE TWO BUILDINGS. THERE.

TOO TIGHT. CAN'T DROP AN AIRTEAM FROM HERE--

YOU'LL HAVE TO GO BACK DOWN ON FOOT.

COPY. ROGER THAT ONE, TWELVE.

SIR! YOUR URBAN LEGEND JUST CLEARED A SEVEN-STORY DROP, SIR.

GOING BACK DOWN NOW. OVER.

SAID THEY HAD HIM, WHY?

YOUR SARCASM IS NOT APPRECIATED, AGENT. NOT ONE IOTA.

THIS IS NOT A JOKE, DAMN YOUR EYES!

GOT THE PLACE MOPPED-AN'-CLOCKED, GOT BIG HEATS AND INFRA-- SHOULDN'T WE--

FRESH FEED ON THAT, NOW!

FLOORS, NOW! KRUPS! YOU AND RANDALL-- OVER THAT--

OUGHTA BE A WET BLOB ON THE PAVEMENT.

WHY DIDN'T SOMEONE *TELL* ME THIS WAS GOING DOWN?

THAT'S IT, GOT--

JUST FLARED-UP NOW, SIR.

OKAY, LADIES! GET YER HAIR OUTTA YER CURLERS! THIS IS IT!

NO LIGHTS! NO LIGHTS!

GOTTA DEFINITE BIOHEAT DOWN THERE, SARGE.

YOU SUITS AT H.Q. MIGHT WANNA COVER YER EARS. WE'RE BRINGIN' IN SONICS.

ROGER, PANTHER TEAM. DROPPED FOR SONICS.

SECOND AIRTEAM DROPPED. PERIMETER SECURED.

PLUS IN TIGHT. LET'S SCRAMBLE HIS EGGS.

THAT BUM'S GONNA FEEL A WICKED-GRIM HEADACHE, OBOY.

ALL CLEAR, OVER. GO AHEAD.

HERE, GIVE ME THAT THING.

SERGEANT, THIS IS AGENT PRAVDZKA OF THE F.P.C. BASETEAM, WASHINGTON. HOW'S IT HANGING?

READ YA, BASE. WHAT'S THE WORD?

WORD IS, YOU CAN HURT HIM, BUT DON'T *KILL* HIM. NEED THIS DOUBLE-U FOR SOME Q AND A.

=KAFF=

ROGER-DODGER, BASE. YOU HEARD IT, GIRLS.

WHAT'S THAT?

WHAT...

=KAFF=

AAH! AAAH!

LOOK OUT! LOOK--

OHMY OHMY GHAA--

BLINK

GET-- GET ME AGENT TIBBLE.

TIBBLE.

I SAW IT, SIR...

...WHOEVER HE IS, HE'S WEARING ***ENHANCEMENTS.*** THE PSYCHOLOGICAL ADVANTAGES ARE ***OBVIOUS.***

THE BRAINS SAY NO ENHANCEMENTS.

YES, WELL, WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, THE BRAINS HAVE BEEN KNOWN TO MAKE MISTAKES...

...SIR.

WE GOT THE PANTHER BACK UP, SIR.

GOOD.

SERGEANT, IT'S BASE BACK'ACHA. WHAT THE ***HELL.***

GONE, SIR. JUST GONE. DISAPPEARED.

NOTHIN'S WORKIN' RIGHT, NO BIO SCANS, CAN'T--

WHAT DO YOU *MEAN* "NOTHING'S WORKING RIGHT"?

SIR, HAD TO CALL FROM UPSTAIRS. NEGATIVE, NO.

ARE YOU ALL *ACCOUNTED* FOR? WHAT'S YOUR *SITCH?*

ALL HERE, SIR, THANKS FOR ASKIN'. HE'S-- PUT-- IT'S--

CAN'T THINK STRAIGHT, SIR. GROGGY FEELING...

IT'S A LOCALIZED ***E.M.P.*** HE BLEW ALL THEIR TOOL-BOXES WITH AN ***E.M.P.!***

TIBBLE!

SIR.

SOUNDS LIKE INDUCED MIASMA. THIS IS NO--

BASTARD'S GOT A NEURAL CLOUDER, OR IT'S LOW-FORM SONICS.

TIBBLE, YOU HEARD IT. I WANT YOU IN GOTHAM, ***NOW.***

ALREADY IN THE AIR, SIR. TWENTY MINUTES, TOP SPEED.

GOOD, JUST GET THERE!

ROCK N'ROLL.

BZZT

KHOOF

AN OPEN MIC, BUT NO FOOTAGE OF--

ONE OF THE F.P.C. MEN SAYING THAT THE VICTIM WAS SHOT POINT-BLANK. NOW IS THAT--

WITH WHAT?

STANDARD ISSUE REPEATER. OR THOUGHT IT WAS A TASER. BATMAN--

NO WAY IT WAS ONE. NO, NO.

TASER HE'D HAVE MUSCLE PARALYSIS. COULDN'T.

LOOK BACK AT THIS CAPTURE, HERE. WHAT'S THAT?

LOOKS LIKE-- UH-HUH--

BLOODY RAG, THERE.

HE WAS SHOT. HE'S BLEEDING, LOOK. HE'S TRYING TO COVER--

MAN IN A MASK...

HOW COULD A MAN SURVIVE A POINT-BLANK REPEATER HIT?

AN EXO. IT'S GOTTA BE... CERAMICS, STEEL.

IF WE CAN GET A ***BLOOD*** SAMPLE FROM HIM--

LONG LOST LAST MASK.

SHUT UP!

SHUT UP! SHUT UP!

LISTEN TO THE *GLEE* IN YOUR VOICES! YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT HIM AS IF HE WERE A BIG-GAME *TROPHY* FOR YOUR WALL!

YES, YES. EXACTLY.

IT... IT SICKENS ME! *YOU* SICKEN ME!

I NEED *AIR!* IT MAKES ME *SICK! SICK!*

OOH! OOAH!

MAN IN A MASK... AAH...

MEN

KLACK

=HACK= =HACK= KAFF!

=GASP= =GASP= HACK!

HUFF HUFF GASP IT'S...

IT'S ALL RIGHT, YOU'RE ALL RIGHT.

YOU'RE IN CONTROL, CONTROL...

YES, HUFF HUFF CONTROL...

WHOEVER HE IS, WE'LL ***FIND*** HIM AND ***UNMASK*** HIM.

WE'LL ***FIND*** HIM, THEN WE'LL KILL HIM.

KAFF

BHI

COUGH
COUGH

...STEP BACK, NOW. CAREFUL WITH THAT.

THERE WAS A STRUGGLE, SEE? SCUFFS.

WE CORDONED OUT TO TWELVE FEET LIKE YOU SAID, DOC.

NOTING POSITION AND APPARENT LOCATION OF DEATH. VICTIM FULLY-SUITED, GLOVES AND HELMET INTACT, BOOTS LACED...

...AS FOR INITIAL EXTERNAL BODY EXAM, THERE ARE SOME ABRASIONS AROUND THE FACE. NO HEMATOMA, NO OTHER BRUISING.

THERE ARE TWO LARGE ***HOLES*** IN THE CHEST, ABOUT THREE-INCH GAPS. BOTH ***PIERCED*** THE ARMOR CLEAN THROUGH.

MINIMAL SPRAY, NO BURN ON ENTRIES, ***MASSIVE*** INTERNAL DAMAGE.

TURNING HIM OVER, WE FIND THE ***EXITS*** COMPLETELY BLOWN ***OUT***.

THE BLASTS MUST'VE BEEN FOUR FEET OFF OR LESS, GENTLE-MEN...

...ONE BLAST WOULD'A BEEN DEATH... HE HAS ***TWO***. THAT'S GRIM.

AYE... ***WICKED*** GRIM.

NOTE, THE VIC'S CAMERA PAK IS ***GONE***. LOOKS FORCIBLY SO...

...THUS, NO FIRST-PERSON FOOTAGE OF WHATEVER HAPPENED.

HE MUST'VE ***NICKED*** IT, THIS-THIS "BATMAN"!

WE'LL BREAK OFF HIS ***HEAD!***

EASY, WOLF! TIME ENOUGH FOR THAT LATER!

THIS IS INTERESTING...

HARD SHELL CASE, STANDARD F.P.C. ISSUE BY THE *LOOKS* OF IT.

TWO GUNS? A SHOTGUN AND A LIGHT HAND-HELD.

SOMEBODY SHOT TWICE? FORENSICS WILL WORK THAT OUT FROM THE TRAJECTORIES... TWO SHOOTERS, COULD BE. HMN.

BATMAN?

HELL IF I KNOW.

NOW THAT THE STATION'S SECURE, WE CAN START THE *FULL-* ON.

IT'LL TAKE SOME TIME... WE'LL LIFEFLIGHT THE BODY OUT. I'LL DO AN AUTOPSY ON AN H.Q. SLAB, LATER.

ANYBODY GOT A *LIGHT?*

FLICKT

=PANT= =PANT=

KRAAK!

RRUMBLE...

FWKT!

KLAK

PLPT.

THAK

THAKATHAK
THAKT
THAKT
SPLAKT

S'GONNA START POURING. LOOK.

TRAFFIC'S NOT TOO BAD. WE'LL MAKE IT PAST MIDTOWN BEFORE THE GAME'S OUT.

MOM-- *LOOK!*

GOTHAM CITY PKWAY
DOWNTOWN EXIT
½ MILES
1.5 MILES
2 MILES

MEATWAGON. SOMETHING'S UP.

HERE COMES THE CALL...

BEE-BEE-BEE

BINGO.

...GOSS.

GOSS, IT'S GORDON.

GOT A FRESH HOMICIDE. IT'S A FED, AN' IT'S ***MESSY.*** WHERE ARE YOU?

THE PARKWAY, JUST PAST THE STADIUM.

MEET ME AT THE F-STOP STATION AT SPRANG AND ADAMS, ASAP.

*EIGHT OR NINE MINUTES, OKAY? I GOT MY **DAUGHTER** WITH ME.*

*BRING HER. THIS IS **RED** HOT.*

ROGER.

CLICK

I'LL HAVE TO BRING YOU, *TORA*... IT'S RED HOT.

INCOMING

BEEBEEBEE

BEE-BEE-BEE

[...UNKNOWN CALLER...]

KLICK!

...YES?

DOC. HELP.

WHAT'S--? WHERE HAVE YOU *BEEN?* WHAT'S GOING *ON?*

IS IT *HIM?*

SHOT. I'VE BEEN...

SHH! WHERE *ARE* YOU?

BLOOD... IT'S RUNNING INTO MY *BOOT.*

I HAVE A CORONER'S CALL. G.C.P.D.... SOMEONE'S BEEN KILLED. A *FED.* IT'LL BE AN *HOUR,* AT LEAST.

I KNOW. I WAS *THERE.*

I *SAW* IT HAPPEN.

WHERE ARE YOU?

HALF-WAY TO SAFEHOUSE DELTA... AN *HOUR,* YOU SAID?

I'LL BE THERE AS SOON AS I CAN. SOONER.

OKAY, WHERE IS HE?

WOAH, WOAH, WOAH. HOLD IT.

WHERE'S HE THINK *HE'S* GOING?

G.C.P.D.. WE'RE HERE TO SEE THE BODY.

OH, *NO* YOU'RE NOT!

OH-HO, YES WE *ARE.*

GOTHAM FORENSICS INVESTIGATES ALL HOMICIDES WITHIN CITY LIMITS.

WHAT'S ALL *THIS?*

YOU GOT A BODY DOWN THERE AND I'VE GOT MY CORONER ON THE WAY.

STAND DOWN.

SORRY, CAPTAIN. THE VIC'S AN F.P.C.-MAN. THAT MAKES THIS A *FEDERAL* CASE.

YOU STAND DOWN.

NO, I *WON'T*...

NOT WHILE WE'RE IN *MY* JURISDICTION, I WON'T.

WE'RE *NOT* IN YOUR JURISDICTION, G.C.P.D.-MAN... THIS CASE IS NOW *FEDERAL*, NOT *LOCAL*...

NO, DAMMIT! YOU FEDS CAN'T KEEP *DOIN' THIS* TO US!

HOW'RE WE S'POSED TO DO OUR *JOB* IF YOU KEEP--

W-WHAT'RE YOU *DOING*? TURN *BACK*...! WE CAN'T JUST LEAVE HIM LIKE THIS!

NO!

YOU KNOW THE ARRANGEMENT, G.C.P.D. *FIRST*. HIS RULE. YOU AGREED TO IT, TOO.

LEMME OUT! I'LL *WALK!*

I'M NOT GONNA JUST *LEAVE* HIM, LIKE--!

BEEBEEBEE

GOSS, IT'S **GORDON** AGAIN.

JIM-- I'M ALMOST THERE. I'M--

FORGET IT, DOC. THEY SHUT US **OUT**, G.C.P.D.'S **OUT**.

GPD POLICE

WORD FROM THE TOP. THEY PUT AGENT ***TIBBLE*** IN CHARGE OF THIS.

TIBBLE? ***WICKED***-GRIM...

THEY ALREADY HAVE YOU ***WOLVES***, PLUS THE GOTHAM ***PANTHERS***. AND THE ***HEADS*** IN D.C....

...NOT TO MENTION A ***SLEW*** OF US ***F.P.C.-MEN*** ON THE GROUND. NOW, TIBBLE.

AND IF THEY HAVE TIBBLE, THEY'RE GETTING AGENT ***MERCER***, TOO.

MERCER, HUH?

A BONA FIDE ***T.P.K.***, THAT ONE. A ***TELEPATH***.

TOP'S GOT A FEW ON PAYROLL.

NO, I KNOW. SOMETHING'S ***ROTTEN*** HERE. NOTHIN' WE CAN DO.

GO ***HOME***, DOC. I'LL CALL YOU TOMORROW.

CAPTAIN GORDON? I'M AGENT ***TIBBLE***. WASHINGTON SENT ME.

I'M IN CHARGE OF THIS LITTLE THING.

GOOD FOR YOU, TEX.

NO, CAPTAIN. YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND. I'M TAKING YOU ***IN***.

TO ANSWER SOME QUESTIONS. OFFICIALLY.

OH, NOW ***THIS***... THIS IS TOO ***MUCH!***

SHUT UP, CAPTAIN!

WHY DIDN'T ANY OF YOU LOCAL-YOKELS TELL US YOU HAD ***THIS*** THING RUNNING LOOSE IN YOUR TOWN.

HURRY--
HURRY--

FPC
GOTHAM

FPC

=SIGH=

ALL RIGHT, GORDON. OKAY.

LET'S GO OVER IT ONCE AGAIN, FOR YUKS.

YOU'RE WASTING ***MY*** TIME AND ***YOURS,*** TIBBLE.

I ALREADY ***TOLD*** YOU. I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT YOUR "BAT-MAN OF GOTHAM." NOTHIN'. NOT A DAMN THING.

THE G.C.P.D. HAS NO OFFICIAL POSITION ON GHOSTS, VAMPIRES, BOGEY-MEN, OR EVIL MONSTERS.

FIRST TIME I SAW HIM WAS WHEN YOU FLASHED ME THAT CAP BACK THERE.

GO INTERROGATE THE ENTIRE G.C.P.D. IF YOU WANT. YOU'LL GET THE SAME THING... ZIP.

HMMN...

BUT I SURE CAN UNDERSTAND YOUR **CURIOSITY**, TIBBLE. I'M A **CURIOUS** MAN MYSELF...

CURIOUS AS TO WHY YOU F.P.C.'S SHUT US OUT OF THE OFFICIAL INVESTIGATION. **CURIOUS** AS TO WHY THERE'S A **DEAD MAN** IN MY SUBWAY...

I'LL ASK THE QUESTIONS... AN' I'M LOSING MY **PATIENCE.**

WHY DIDN'T YOU **TELL US** ABOUT THIS BAT-MAN OF GOTHAM!?

COS' I DIDN'T **KNOW ABOUT** THIS "BAT-MAN OF GOTHAM"!

I **TOLD** YOU, I NEVER SAW HIM 'TIL YOU SHOWED ME THAT GODDAMN **CAP!**

WELL?

WELL...

HE'S TELLING THE TRUTH.

HMN. IN THAT CASE, WE'LL NEED TO **CONFER.**

AGENT, COULD WE SEE YOU OUT HERE FOR A MOMENT, PLEASE.

...OR WITH HIM?

GIVE HIM TWENTY-FOUR HOURS. THAT OUGHTA BE ENOUGH.

THINK HE'LL COOPERATE?

HE'LL COOPERATE.

BUT LET'S SIC A COUPLE OF THE WOLVES ON HIM, TO TAIL HIM. WATCH HIM.

HE'LL COOPERATE, BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN WE SHOULD ***TRUST*** HIM.

OKAY, GORDON. EVEN AS WE SPEAK, WE HAVE OUR BEST MEN SCOURING FOR ANY SHRED OF EVIDENCE... ANYTHING.

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'D BE IN CHARGE OF THIS IF IT WERE LEFT IN G.C.P.D. HANDS, AREN'T YOU?

...

WELL, DON'T WORRY. I WANT THE SAME THING ***YOU*** DO.

NOW, SINCE ***I'M*** IN CHARGE, TECHNICALLY YOU AND THE REST OF THE G.C.P.D. WORK FOR ME. RIGHT?

ALL RIGHT...

THE HEADS SAY THERE REALLY ***WAS*** A BAT-MAN OF GOTHAM, ONCE... A LONG TIME AGO. ***LONG*** TIME AGO.

BUT THAT "MASKED MAN" STUFF DON'T FLY AROUND HERE NO MORE.

NOW, SUPPOSING THAT'S ALL TRUE, I RECKON YOU G.C.P.D.-MEN OUGHT TO HAVE SOMETHING ON HIM SOMEWHERE, RIGHT?

ALL RIGHT...

THERE MUST BE A FILE ON THE BAT-MAN THING SOMEWHERE, SOMEPLACE.

*EVEN IF IT'S ON PAPER OR A FLOPPY DISK OR A-- WHATTAYACALLIT-- A **CD-ROM**.*

I WANT YOU TO DIG INTO YOUR ARCHIVES. GET WHATEVER YOU'VE GOT ON THE BAT-MAN OF GOTHAM...

*ANY OF IT, **ALL** OF IT. GOING BACK TO NINETEEN-HUNDRED-AND-GODDAMN-THIRTY-NINE. ALL RIGHT, GORDON?*

ALL RIGHT...

CD-ROM

SNUFF
SNUFF

BARK! BARK!
BARK! BARK!
LOOK! OVER THERE!

HUFF
HUFF

BAT--?

IN THERE!

CLICK

WUFF!

SOMETHING?

DUNNO. COULD BE NOTHING.

BRING ME A SAMPLE BAG.

FWPT

BASE, IT'S THIRTY-EIGHT PANTHER TEAM. HERE ON THE ROOF OF THE WHITE RABBIT. YEAH, YEAH. I KNOW.

I THINK WE *FOUND* SOMETHING HERE.

≠PHEW≠

WELL, NO, NO. I DUNNO EXACTLY...

...LOOKS LIKE HUMAN *BLOOD*.

DRiP.

DRiP.
DRiP..

HE'S LOST A LOT, MAYBE TWO UNITS. I'M STARTING HIM ON A LITER OF SALINE, THEN PLASMA. C'MON.

WHAT D'YA THINK *HAPPENED* TO HIM?

IT'S A SELF-LIMITED GUNSHOT WOUND.

LOOKS LIKE IT WAS A SMALL GAUGE HARD-SHELL.

AND IT FEELS LIKE HE HAS A COUPLE FRACTURES HERE, RIGHT MIDSIDE.

HERE, HOLD ON TO HIM, YEAH...

...AND HERE'S THE EXIT, BACK HERE. IT CLEARED THE TORSO.

THE BULLET MUST'VE HIT HIS RIB CAGE, MEANING HE COULD HAVE A NUMOTHRAX.

...AND HERE'S THE SLUG, STILL STUCK IN HIS KEVLAR MESH. PASS ME THE ***URO-SEAL***.

WE NEED TO RE-VALVE HIS COLLAPSED LUNG AND CLEAN THE EXIT.

HOW D'YA GET THAT THING OFF HIS HEAD?

I THOUGHT ***YOU*** KNEW. HE NEVER GOT AROUND TO ***TELLING*** ME.

THERE'S THESE TINY LITTLE CLASPS OR ***ZIPPERS*** OR SOMETHING. I DON'T SEE HOW TO...

HERE.

SNIP SNIP

W-WHERE?

THERE. BETWEEN THE CERAMIC FACE-PLATES. THERE SHOULD BE A ***SEAM***...

I... I ***SEE*** IT.

KRAAAACK!

FWP

SHOOF-

BA-BA-BOOM!

KRAAK

RCAD...

THE LUCKY FOOL. THE LUCKY, LUCKY FOOL...

...DRIP

DRIP. DRIP.

HE'LL SURVIVE.

CONTINUED...

"BAT-MAN" SIGHTINGS REMAIN UNEXPLAINED

(FROM GCDAY.WEB, 11:30:39)

THURSDAY'S PUZZLING "BAT-MAN" SIGHTINGS REMAIN A MYSTERY - CONFLICTING EYEWITNESS ACCOUNTS - BITE MARKS ON VICTIM - GCPD PRESS BRIEFING

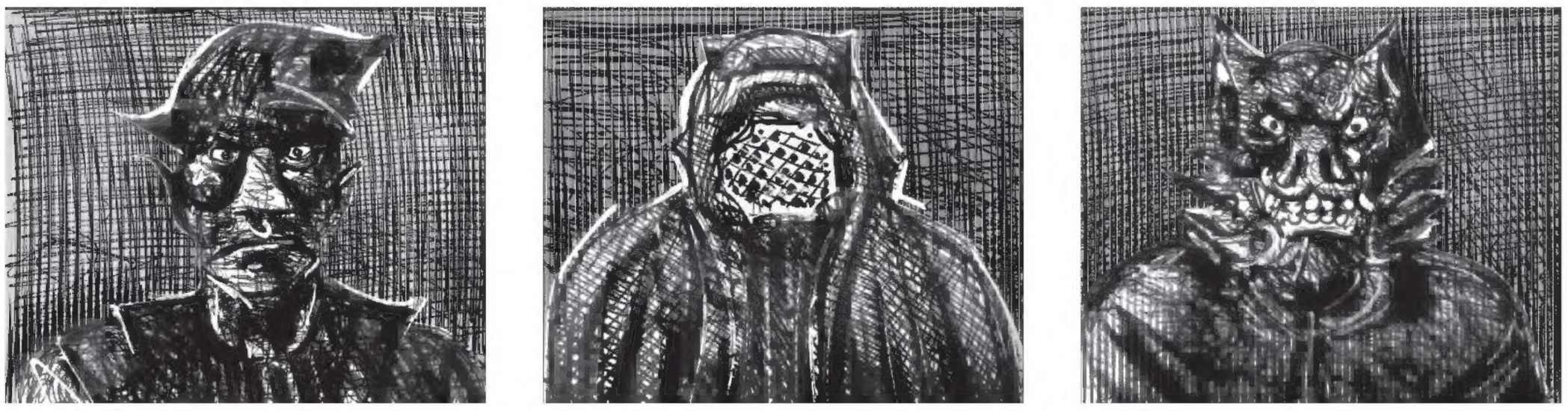
THREE COMPOSITE IDENTIKIT PORTRAITS PUT TOGETHER BY GCPD OFFICIALS USING KEY EYEWITNESS TESTIMONY SUGGEST THAT THE SO-CALLED "BAT-MAN OF GOTHAM" ALLEGEDLY SEEN BY RESIDENTS OF A GOTHAM EASTEND NEIGHBORHOOD WAS HUMAN AND NOT AN ANIMAL, AS EARLIER REPORTS HAVE SUGGESTED. ONE LIKENESS SHOWS A DARK-SKINNED, BROAD-FACED MALE WITH A FLAT NOSE, THICK LIPS, AND A PIERCING STARE. A SECOND PORTRAIT SUGGESTS THE UNKNOWN INDIVIDUAL WAS AN UGLY, NARROW-FACED CAUCASIAN MALE WEARING A PARTIAL MASK OR BLACK SKI CAP WITH DARK GLASSES OR GOGGLES. BOTH COMPOSITE ACCOUNTS PUT THE FIGURE AT WELL OVER SIX FEET TALL, WEARING A LONG COAT OR CLOAK. A THIRD EYEWITNESS INSISTS HE WAS ATTACKED AND BITTEN BY A LARGE, HAIRY APE-LIKE CREATURE WITH THE FACE OF AN ANIMAL AND LONG, HAIRY ARMS.

GOTHAM POLICE ARE CHECKING AREA ZOOS, CIRCUSES, AND ANIMAL SHELTERS FOR ANY REPORTS OF MISSING OR ESCAPED ANIMALS, BUT SO FAR NOTHING UNUSUAL HAS BEEN REPORTED, SOURCES SAY. "RABID DOGS ARE SOMETIMES KNOWN TO POUNCE ON UNSUSPECTING PEDESTRIANS AND EVEN ON OCCASION ENTER HOUSES," SAID ONE GCPD OFFICIAL. "A LARGE DOG STANDING ON ITS HIND LEGS IN THE DARK COULD BE EASILY MISTAKEN FOR A LARGE MAN, ESPECIALLY BY A TERRIFIED CIVILIAN." IT HAS BEEN ELSEWHERE REPORTED THAT FPC AGENTS SOMETIMES EMPLOY SMART-DOG TEAMS AS PART OF THEIR TACTICAL INVESTIGATION PROCEDURES. A SEPARATE FPC INVESTIGATION WAS ALSO OCCURRING IN THE EASTEND NEIGHBORHOOD AT THE SAME TIME AS THE ALLEGED CREATURE SIGHTINGS. OFFICIALS INSIST THE TWO EVENTS ARE ENTIRELY UNRELATED.

GCPD LIEUTENANT THOMAS HOUCK SAID NO EXPLANATION HAS BEEN RULED OUT, BUT PROMISES A THOROUGH FOLLOW-UP STATEMENT WILL BE ISSUED TOMORROW. "WE DON'T KNOW AT THIS TIME WHAT IT WAS RESIDENTS OF CYPRESS STREET WITNESSED LAST NIGHT. IT WAS MOST LIKELY A BURGLAR SOMEHOW DISGUISED AS AN ANIMAL, BUT IT IS CERTAINLY NOT SOME SORT OF MONSTER OR CREATURE, AS SOME IRRESPONSIBLE NEWS SOURCES HAVE REPORTED," HOUCK SAID. REPORTERS AT THE NEWS CONFERENCE INDICATED THAT LT. HOUCK WAS SHOWING SIGNS OF WEARINESS. HE SAID THE "BAT-MAN" SIGHTINGS CASE HAS COST THE GCPD FAR MORE IN RESOURCES AND MANPOWER THAN WOULD BE JUSTIFIED BY THE DAMAGE CAUSED. "IT IS A LITTLE RIDICULOUS," HE ADDED TESTILY. "THIS IS NOTHING BUT MASS HYSTERIA. THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS A 'BAT-MAN' OF GOTHAM."

FPC OFFICIALS HAVE MADE NO PUBLIC STATEMENT REGARDING THIS CASE AS OF THIS FILING.

(SEE RELATED STORIES: PANIC AS GCPD HUNT BAT-LIKE CREATURE...COMPLAINTS AFTER AGGRESSIVE FPC INVESTIGATION LEADS TO BUILDING INVASION, VANDALISM...GOTHAM TEENAGE "WILDINGS"...DOG ATTACKS, TERROR.)■



COMPOSITE POLICE SKETCHES REPRESENTING THE SO-CALLED "BAT-MAN OF GOTHAM"

BATMAN: YEAR 100 #1

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A FORGOTTEN ICON FROM THE PAST — WANTED FOR MURDER IN THE FUTURE!

GOTHAM. 2039.

A MURDERED FEDERAL AGENT. A CONTINGENT OF WASHINGTON'S BEST SPOOKS HOT ON THE SUSPECT'S TRAIL. AMID THE CHAOS, GCPD'S DETECTIVE GORDON, GRANDSON OF THE FORMER COMMISSIONER, LAUNCHES HIS OWN INVESTIGATION AND DISCOVERS THAT THE MAN THEY ARE CHASING IS A MAN WHO SHOULDN'T EXIST AT ALL.

VISIONARY WRITER/ARTIST PAUL POPE PRESENTS A DARK, DYSTOPIAN WORLD DEVOID OF PRIVACY, ONE FILLED WITH GOVERNMENT CONSPIRACIES, PSYCHIC POLICE, HOLOGRAPHIC CALLER-ID, AND ABSOLUTELY NO ROOM FOR "SECRET IDENTITIES." A SCI-FI FUTURE WHERE EVERYTHING IS KNOWN BY EVERYONE – YET THERE IS ONE BIZARRE ANOMALY...THE BATMAN!

A MYSTERY OF EPIC PROPORTIONS...100 YEARS IN THE MAKING!

BATMAN: YEAR 100

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